

What is claimed is:

1. An optically clear lens having antimicrobial properties comprising more than about 0.01 weight percent activated silver.
- 5 2. The lens of claim 1 wherein, the lens is a soft contact lens.
3. The lens of claim 1 wherein, the lens is a silicone hydrogel.
4. The lens of claim 1 having about 0.02 to about 0.2 weight percent activated silver.
- 10 5. The lens of claim 1 having about 0.05 to about 0.2 weight percent activated silver.
- 15 6. The lens of claim 1 wherein, the lens is a silicone hydrogel having about 0.02 to about 0.1 weight percent activated silver.
7. The lens of claims 6, 5, or 4 wherein the lens is lenefilcon A, aquafilcon A, etafilcon A, genfilcon A, balifilcon A, polymacon, or lotrafilcon A.
- 20 8. A method of reducing a lens wearer's adverse microbial reactions comprising, the step of providing an optically clear lens having antimicrobial properties, the lens comprising more than about 0.01 weight percent activated silver.
- 25 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the lens is a contact lens.
10. The method of claim 8 wherein, the lens has about 0.02 to about 0.2 weight percent activated silver.
- 30 11. The method of claim 8 wherein, the lens is a silicone hydrogel having about 0.05 to about 0.1 percent activated silver.

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12. A method of producing an optically clear lens having antimicrobial properties comprising more than about 0.01 weight percent activated silver, where the method comprises the step of, treating a lens containing silver with an oxidizing agent.

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13. The method of claim 12 wherein, the oxidizing agent is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide, sodium hypochlorite, peroxy acids, bromine, chlorine, chromic acid, potassium permanganate and iodine.

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14. The method of claim 12 wherein the oxidizing agent is sodium hypochlorite.

15. A lens case having antimicrobial properties comprising more than about 0.01 weight percent activated silver.

16. The lens case of claim 15, wherein at least one component of the case has about 0.05 to about 3 weight percent activated silver.